

MI-9/63.3

GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Washington 25, D. C.

July 16, 1963

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Reference is made to your request for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to S. Con. Res. 42, 88th Congress, a concurrent resolution, "Establishing the Joint Committee on National Security Affairs."

The resolution would establish a joint committee to be composed of twelve members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives. The function of the committee would be "to make a continuous study and investigation of all matters pertaining to national defense, foreign policy, and national security (including intelligence, defense policy, nuclear development, and disarmament)." In fulfilling this function the committee would be authorized to review the operations of the respective executive agencies responsible for the development and execution of policies with respect to such matters.

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, confers on the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, jurisdiction over matters relating to the Department of Defense, including the military departments. Both Committees have established subcommittees charged with surveillance over the intelligence activities of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Whether additional committees of Congress are necessary in order to accomplish the purposes set forth in S. Con. Res. 42 is a matter for the Congress to determine. Accordingly, the Department of Defense takes no position with respect to S. Con. Res. 42.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this report for the consideration of the Committee.

Sincerely,

L. Niederlehner
for

John T. McNaughton

Honorable J. W. Fulbright
Chairman, Committee on Foreign
Relations

United States Senate